

# D4 WESTport

*June 2005*

Welcome to the June edition of WESTport, MoDOT District 4's newsletter to Missouri General Assembly members from the west central region.

You will receive monthly updates of District 4 projects and activities throughout the regular General Assembly session, and periodic updates during the rest of the year. We hope you will find the information useful and enlightening.

Our District 4 staff is always available to answer your questions and address constituent concerns. See our list of contacts at the bottom of this newsletter for telephone numbers and other information.

## **New Missouri River Bridge Opens June 25**

Six weeks after celebrating the dedication of the new Route 13 Missouri River bridge at Lexington, Lafayette and Ray County residents will drive across the four-lane structure for the first time.

A 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, June 25, will mark the opening of the new bridge. Citizens from Ray and Lafayette Counties will gather for an informal ribbon cutting and drive across the new structure before proceeding to the old Route 13 bridge. Once the procession crosses the 80-year-old structure, it will be closed permanently.

Staging areas on both sides of the bridge will open at 9:30 a.m. on June 25. Ray County residents should enter the staging area from Route J, and Lafayette County residents should approach the bridge from the Route 224 interchange.

Both processions will move to the center of the bridge at 9:50 a.m., where the ribbon will be cut at 10 a.m. The Ray County procession will continue south to Route 224 and proceed to the old bridge. The Lafayette County procession will continue north to Route J and then take Route 13 to the old bridge. MoDOT forces will close the old bridge after the final car from each procession crosses the river.

The new \$50 million structure will officially become the Congressman Ike Skelton Bridge in late August, pending the governor's approval of a bill naming the structure for Skelton.

The new bridge, which is located two miles east of the old structure, is three-quarters-of-a-mile long and is 78 feet wide. It features two 12-foot lanes in each direction, two 10-foot outside shoulders and two 4-foot inside shoulders.

## **Smooth Roads Initiated On Route 50**

Media representatives and local business leaders gathered near the Jackson/Johnson County line on May 16 to commemorate the first Smooth Roads Initiative project in District 4. The \$8.3 million Route 50 resurfacing from Route HH in Warrensburg to the Jackson County line is among the 2,200 miles of Missouri highways that will be made smoother and safer by 2007, thanks to voter approval of Amendment 3 last November.

The project also includes resurfacing Business Route 13 from Business Route 50 to Cooper Street and the eastbound and westbound ramps at Routes 13 and 50 in Warrensburg.

The Route 50 work includes milling of old pavement and replacement with 1¾ inches of asphalt and fog-sealing shoulders, sign replacement, mile-marker changes, rumble strips on some shoulders and new, wider 6-inch epoxy striping.

Hilty Quarries and subcontractor Chester Bross Co. are performing the work, which is expected to be complete by mid-summer. Earlier this year, District 4 maintenance crews repaired pavement on Route 50 in preparation for this project.

Owners of County Line Auto Parts joined state representatives Mike McGhee and David Pearce, Johnson County officials, John Hilty and MoDOT officials in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 16. The auto disassemblers are providing a portion of their property for the subcontractor to operate an asphalt plant at the west end of the job.

Chester Bross Co. is the contractor and Hilty Quarries the subcontractor on another District 4 SRI project to resurface Route 71 from 283<sup>rd</sup> Street near Harrisonville south to Bates County. That \$7.85 million project is expected to begin in mid-July and conclude in October. Other District 4 Smooth Roads Initiative projects already let include:

- Mill and resurface Route 7 from Route 71 to Route Z, including the ramp from Route 7 to northbound Route 71 in Cass County
- Mill and resurface Interstate 35 from Pleasant Valley Road to the I-29 split, and from Clinton County line to Fishing River in Clay County
- Diamond grind pavement and fog seal shoulders on Route 152 from Brighton Avenue to west of Flintlock Road in Clay County
- Diamond grind pavement and fog seal shoulders on Route 169 from north of I-435 to north of 108<sup>th</sup> Street in Clay County
- Diamond grind pavement and fog seal shoulders on Route 169 from north of Barry Road to south of I-435 in Clay County
- Mill and resurface pavement and fog seal shoulders on I-70 from Manchester to I-470, including ramps at Route 40 and I-470 in Jackson County
- Diamond grind pavement and fog seal shoulders on Route 291 from north of Route 24 to north of Sunset Drive in Jackson County
- Diamond grind pavement on Route 7 between Moreland School Road and Sunset Drive in Jackson County
- Diamond grind pavement and fog seal shoulders on I-29 from I-435 to the I-435 split in Platte County

## **Patrol Honors Two MoDOT Workers**

MoDOT employees Bryan W. Terrell and Loren G. Dickmeier were awarded Honorary Trooper Certificates by the Missouri Highway Patrol during a ceremony May 23 in Warrensburg for their heroic actions at the scene of a December 29 crash on Route 50 west of Warrensburg.

Following the crash late last December, the MoDOT maintenance workers rushed to the crumpled cab of a propane tanker that had caught fire and helped remove the driver, Mathew D. West.

Crew Worker Terrell and Senior Crew Worker Dickmeier, both out of the Higginsville maintenance building,

then provided first aid to West until emergency personnel arrived. Two other motorists also rendered aid at the scene.

Honorary Trooper Certificates are awarded to civilians who are recommended for the award by a member of the Missouri Highway Patrol.

## **Roundabout Opens In Belton**

Seeing is believing, at least as far as roundabouts are concerned.

Concerns were raised, then dropped in Belton when the first of four roundabouts to be built as part of the Route 58 reconstruction opened just before the Memorial Day weekend.

The roundabout at Cherry Hill and Route 58 was expressly requested by Belton residents, who strongly preferred MoDOT's three-lane, three-roundabout alternative design to an earlier five-lane proposal.

During construction, one side of the intersection was tightly constricted to an 11-foot lane until final concrete and asphalt work could be completed. Large trucks and school buses attempting to completely circle the intersection found it difficult to maneuver through the construction site.

Concerns were brought to Belton's mayor and aldermen, who asked MoDOT to discuss the design at meetings in mid-May. Norm Beeman in Traffic, Area Engineer Mark Stock, Senior Construction Inspector Mike Dawson, Senior Transportation Planner Joshua Scott and Senior Community Relations Specialist Steve Porter explained the roundabout design and urged city officials and citizens to evaluate the finished product.

MoDOT is arranging public meetings and presentations to the Belton School District's driver education classes during June to familiarize residents with the new traffic feature.

## **Downtown Work Affects I-670 Traffic**

City of Kansas City contractors working on the Bartle Hall expansion project will close Interstate 670 (the south side of the downtown loop) from 7 p.m. Saturday, June 18, to 5 a.m. Monday, June 20, to remove the Wyandotte Street entrance ramp to I-670. Traffic will be detoured around the north side of the loop during the closure.

The westbound I-670 entrance ramp from Wyandotte, and the eastbound I-670 exit ramp to Central Street, will close at 7 p.m. Friday, June 17. The Wyandotte ramp will be removed permanently, and the Central exit ramp will remain closed until a new Central Street bridge is constructed over I-670. The existing Central Street bridge over I-670 is scheduled for removal the weekend of June 25-26.

Visit the city's website ([www.kcmo.org/cimo.nsf/web/dtconst](http://www.kcmo.org/cimo.nsf/web/dtconst)) for more information about the Bartle Hall project and associated street and highway closures in the downtown area.

## **I-70 Reconstruction Moves to Next Phase**

Reconstruction of Interstate 70 between Route 7 and Route 291 will move into its next phase beginning Saturday, June 18.

Early Saturday morning, crews will close the ramp from westbound I-70 to northbound Route 291 on the project's west end. The ramp will remain closed until mid-October. In addition, workers will relocate barrier and complete temporary striping throughout the project area from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. That work will occasionally reduce traffic to one lane in each direction, so motorists should expect significant delays both days.

The weekend of June 25-26, crews are scheduled to close the Route 7 entrance ramp to westbound I-70 on the project's east end. That ramp will also remain closed until mid-October. When the Route 7 ramp closes, motorists will begin driving on two lanes of the new westbound I-70 pavement in the project's middle section. The Woods Chapel Road entrance ramp to westbound I-70 will also reopen at that time.

The work on the westbound lanes is part of a two-year effort to rebuild five miles of Interstate 70 between Route 7 and Route 291/I-470. The \$40 million project is scheduled for completion this fall.

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